

NEWSWIRE

The Official Newsletter of the
SA International Dart Association

SPRING EDITION - 2004

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Hi Fellow Sailors,

Well, summer is officially here and for those that haven't already done so, now's the time to venture out to the Yacht Club and check your DART out of the winter hibernation!

I must say, I was at the Dam this past weekend and there are a number of DART's sitting in the boat park that are looking rather worse for wear and are in some serious need of attention. It sure is sad to see quality boats slowly deteriorate away and not being used, with the Worlds in 14 Months time, lets try to encourage our "Lost Fleets" to come sailing once again.

The active Fleets are already on the move and a number of events are already under the belt, more recently, we have just completed our Northvaals as well as leg 3 of the Gauteng League. Unlike some of us winter hibernators, a number of sailors have put in some extra sailing miles during the winter months and the dividends are paying off, it's going to take the rest of us some time to "catch-up"

I was at Collins Fiberglass just the other week and was pleasantly surprised to see the "Rows" of brand spanking new DART hulls! Wow, they sure do look great, fast too, ask Herman! More on the new DART' s in the Factory update .

Without further a do, read on.....



FEEDBACK FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As mentioned, summer here, and with the 2005 Worlds just around the corner, now is the time to be on the water and practice, practice, practice.

It's time SA has its own World champ!

First off, congratulations to our 2004 Northvaal Champions, Rob and Alfie Holden, after a 2nd place last year, a well-deserved win for 2004.

The organising of the SA Worlds is well on track, a short update as to where things are at this point in time:

- SAIDA and ELYC have reached agreement on a 50 / 50 split share on the profits of the event. We believe that the Class will benefit in many ways, one of two ways that spring to mind will be to financially assist our sailors to compete in International Events over the next 5 years and secondly, assisting in our youth/development programme.

Regarding our youth Development Programme, I am pleased to report that Ben Mienie and Chris Clarke have committed themselves to the development programme and will be sailing with Victor and Romero from now on. They will also compete together in the 2005 Worlds.

We wish them all the best!

We must say a very special thanks and our appreciation to **Martin Osner** and his team, for without them, the development programme would not be where it is today, thank you Martin.

The 2005 Europeans will be held in Belgium from 9th – 16th July 2005. For those interested, the 2004 Nationals at Stilbaai will be your selection series and hopefully we can have representation at this event. Remember that 1st overall and our top Junior are automatically selected at this event, possibly more!

In closing, the IDA will be debating the DART World Championships for 2006 and 2007. Possibilities are Canada, Antigua, Hong Kong and Holland, IDA voting will start no later than December 2004, any preferences?

Harold Holman
[SAIDA Chairman](#)

FACTORY UPDATE

As mentioned earlier, Collins Fiberglass have been hard at work building new DART's for the local as well as the International market. To the best of my knowledge, some 5 New DART's are already on the water and boy do they look great! Did I forget to mention FAAAAST!!! Both Herman's new DART and Tanja's new hulls are very quick indeed, not taking any thing away from them, they (crews included) are sailing very well.

A short note from Peter Eliot:

Dear Dart Sailor

During our overseas production run we have accumulated some very good masts and tramps that are not of export quality but would make very good racing spares.

The mast sections are out of the new tool from Italy and have been approved by England (Herman sails with one of them). The tramps are standard Texwise tramps.

These spares will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

Current mast price R 5770-00 special price R 4300-00.
Current tramp price R 1800-00 special price R 1300-00.

Regards

Peter Eliot
011 683 4285

For those that can, a visit to the Collins Factory is well worth the trip, see how things are done and pick-up some spares along the way!



FLEET NEWS

EASTERN CAPE DART FLEET

In East London, we don't start sailing until this coming weekend, 9th/10th October, with Friday night being our Opening of season cocktail evening, followed by our 48 cup on Saturday. This being called the 48 cup as it was first sailed in 1948, open to all classes, the event is usually a long distance race. Thereafter almost every weekend, we have our club sailing, but our problem at this time of the year being the weather is so unpredictable. From December it really starts to improve, which is why the DART Worlds is scheduled for December 2005.

2005 DART WORLDS

Over the last year we have been given the full use of the Orient Beach complex. On a recent visit by Grant and Harold, I was able to give them a conducted tour of the facilities we will be offering the world participants, which with the councils support (which is 100% by the way), I believe we can offer the most comprehensive facilities any world sailing venue has to offer.

We are also negotiating with several hotels for special rates and will eventually settle on one and recommend accordingly. Other plans for the worlds are progressing well, added to which the council is prepared to close the entire Orient Beach off to the public to allow the DART sailors complete exclusivity, so ALL DART sailors make a note in your diaries now.

EC FLEET NEWS

Good news is that our Fleet is steadily growing, Two of our top Crews have recently acquired "Brand New" Darts, congratulations to Geff Gradwell and Lionel Hartley, they are planning to keep their old Darts in the club, which brings our DART fleet to 14, not a bad average for weekend sailing, competition is strong.

Congratulations to Martin Struvic, another new Dart sailor who has just progressed through our junior section. Martin has recently bought his own DART after searching for the right one for over a year now, that's commitment for you! Good on you Martin.

East London must have the most colorful DART fleets in SA, if not the world. Tim Stirks new colors being Navy Blue and Lime Green! Geff Gradwells new boat being Orange and Purple, Alan Lister's Flying Pommy has a complete new livery of red white and blue, with Gold mast and cross beams, and wait for it, Lionel Hartley's new white boat is about to be decorated by his crew with black and white COW'S Mooooo Oooooover ! Reverend Bruce Davies has off course the "Saint" painted on the bow, which was always amusing when Geff Gradwell was racing his old boat, that had the

Devil showing two fingers, along side the Saint of Bruce Davies.

Closing off, our Fleet at East London are looking forward to another sailing season, and we would like to wish all DART sailors Fair winds and an enjoyable sailing season to all.

Alan Lister
Eastern Cape Fleet Captain



KZN DART FLEET

It appears that our KZN Fleet is still in Winter hibernation, although there are a few sailors who have persevered thru' the winter months.

Our congratulations to Kyle de Wett to making all efforts to attend the DART Worlds in Portugal, well done on a fine performance. I attach a report from the President of the Portuguese DART Association:

Hi Mark,
First of all I would like to congratulate you on Kyle's excellent result here in Portugal. It was a great pleasure to receive him here and I hope that he has enjoyed being here with us.

You can check some news and photos on www.designars.com/dart or www.dart18.com.pt

There are some Portuguese crews who might be interested in participating in the South Africa Worlds.

We spoke about that in Lagos and it was important that we could be informed about some things like the exact dates and racing program, prices for renting boats, information about free container to and from South Africa, where they will depart in Europe, activities for sailors family, New Year eve program, etc...

I'm sure that a Portuguese representation will be in South Africa...let's make it as big as possible.

Best regards

Francisco Lobo de Vasconcellos
**Presidente da Direcção da
APCDC**

KZN FLEET NEWS

There are pockets of DART fleets in KZN which we hope that will soon join forces to make one large KZN DART family, so guys & gals, dust off those tramps and sail!

Albert Falls seems to be where the action is, although a small fleet of 4 DARTs (soon to be 5), our sailors are really giving the Hobies a regular hiding, keep up the good work, if they can't beat us, they'll join us.

DART Results for the most recent Regatta as follows:

1	Hugh Barr	AFYC
2	Richard Barr	AFYC
3	Kyle de Wet	AFYC
4	Bruce Berryman	AFYC



WESTERN CAPE DART FLEET

Mark Withers was recently elected to the Post of W/Cape Fleet Captain, congratulations Mark. The SAIDA would like to take this opportunity to thank Edgar & June Morris for all their hard work and dedication to the DART Class over that past number of years, a thankless task and we greatly appreciate your efforts, thank you.

Our WP Fleet has been slow to take to the water, not much to report as yet, but I'm sure that Mark will soon have the Fleet on the move once again.

GAUTENG DART FLEET

The Gauteng Fleet have remained fairly active over the winter and reasonable turnouts have been the order of the day. The Gauteng League has remained a success and 30 plus fleets are a regular feature on the water.

Although water is a problem, we are still able to sail, the Vaal remains at about 50%(still a lots of water!) TCC has sufficient water to race, Boskop is reasonable, but Olifantsnek has suffered the worst, with little or no water at all, rumour has it that the guys have put wheels under their DART's!!! Now that's commitment for you!!! Seriously, water is a problem in the Northern parts.

We have recently sailed the Northvaals at Stilbaai and had a "Mixed Bag" of wind conditions, ranging from light to Strong to drifter! Of course the Strong wind races were the topic of much discussion in the pub, unfortunately only 7 boats finished the 2 races, hence the relevant article posted in the DARTBOARD.

Consistency was the order of the day and with a 5th as their discard, Rob & Alfie Holden raced their way into the lead & are now the 2004 Northvaal Champions, well done. Rob & Alfie are 'On Fire" at the moment, they are also leading the Gauteng League and look to be one of the hot favourites for the Nationals!

The Top 5 results are as follows:

1	ROB HOLDEN	BYC
2	BEN MIENIE	SYC
3	TANJA KONIGHOFFER	SYC
4	HERMAN KONIGHOFFER	SYC
5	MARK KOPEL	SYC

THE DART BOARD

"SPRING CLEANING"

STEP 1

Take your DART off the trailer and check out the following on your trailer:

- Tires, make sure the treads good & that there are no cracks in the sidewalls.
- Service the wheel bearings.
- Check that the license is still current.
- Check the lights & spare wheel.
- Inspect the beams for "RUST", a coat of paint will do wonders to an old trailer.
- Clean out & repack the "coffin" (that's where your stow your DART's gear, it's amazing the "stuff" you will find here!)

STEP 2

Choose a nice sunny day & carry out the following on your DART:

- Turn the boat upside down & wash the hulls down with a good car shampoo,
- Inspect the hulls & fill in any chips from last season's battle damage.
- Tighten all nuts, bolts & screws.
- Check the trampoline & have it repaired, you don't want to fall thru', do you !!
- Inspect the rudders & tighten where required, don't forget to fill in the chips !!

STEP 3

Now that you're well on your way, the rigging is last on the list:

- Rings & pins, check & replace where required, this includes D-shackels. Tape the rings when done.
- Make sure that your "wires" are not frayed, tape the ferrules to avoid any sharp edges.
- Service your blocks and replace your ropes where required, drop the main & jib sheets in a bucket of sta-soft & let it stand overnight, the results of this will show when you next sail.
- Check & clean your sails, a little sta-soft on the telltales will eliminate any static.

Having a well prepared boat will help with the mental preparation and it will give you full confidence in your DART that gear failure will be the least of your problems.



CONTROLLING YOUR DART IN A BLOW

With a handful of DART's sailing in races 3 & 4 at the Nothvaals (25kts gusting over 35kts), I thought it pertinent to re-visit the "BLOW" for our less experienced sailors.

What is a blow? I have 3 basic settings for the relevant wind conditions, namely LIGHT (1-8 kts), MODERATE (8-18kts) & BLOWING (18kts and above). Our previous newsletters have covered this topic in depth, feel free to contact me for a copy, but as a refresher, I have summarised the main points for you;

Firstly, don't be nervous, it always looks worse than it really is, once you are out there, it's not all that bad. Remember, the elements should always be treated with respect, whenever you are unsure just how safe or rough the conditions really are, ask your Club's seasoned experts for their advice and LISTEN to what they have to say, try to avoid listening to the "fence sitters" as they will only make you more nervous.

BOAT SET-UP

Mast rake – Drop the shrouds to the very bottom hole of the chain plate and tighten the forestay to allow for adequate mast rotation (not too snug).

Trampoline – Ensure that it is as tight as possible, re check those foot straps.

Battens – Slacken off the top 4 in the Main Sail, leave the rest as per normal.

Jib Traveler – Move the Traveler/Blocks back approx. 120cm from the front beam. (TIP – Don't use your brand new jib in a blow, use the old one).

Nerve steadied, tighten up the harnesses, you're ready to launch.

ON THE WATER

Settle down ASAP and put as much downhaul as you can muster (don't over do it, just take the wrinkles out of the main sail). Test the boat's performance upwind and if overpowered, come back to adjust the rigging, DON'T LEAVE IT!

Make your way to the start at a gentle pace, building your confidence on the way down, no need to overdo things, plenty of time for that later!

THE START/UPWIND SAILING

Don't race up & down the line, expending all of your energy, let someone else do that, watch them & decide from a comfortable distance where you want to start. (Now would be a good time to loosen off the downhaul, this makes the boat much more controllable whilst waiting, don't forget to crank it in before you start!)

Give yourself plenty of room at the start, hang back slightly, let the "Heavy Weather Experts" go, pretty soon you will be mixing it up with them!

The Main traveler should be out about 6 inches and main sheet as tight as possible. What of the Jib you ask?, It becomes necessary in about 20kts and above to sail with a loose Jib, as by this time, the skipper will have eased the traveller (approx. 6 to 8 inches), otherwise the air leaving the Jib will be forced into the back of the main just behind the mast, causing the mast to bend alarmingly the wrong way !!

Now, there are 2 types of crews, Strong ones and ones that are not so Strong. The Stronger crews have the added advantage of easing out the jib in the gusts, keeping the boat flat and at maximum boat speed, eliminating mast de-rotation.

For the weaker crews, sorry guys, more gym time is required, the only alternative is sheet in the jib to 70 or 80 %, opening the slot will slow the airflow on the leeward side of the mainsail and so reduce power. no more than that, or you will de-rotate your mast! this can be a harrowing experience when you're out skippering from the wire

Keep your weight over the Skeggs, this helps the hulls to "bite in" & improve upwind performance. You will soon find your rhythm and start to enjoy the upwind experience!

DOWNWIND SAILING

With all the excitement of the upwind leg now over, its time for the nerve wracking downwind/reach. No sooner have you cleared the windward mark, the boat goes into a pitch pole frenzy. What now? For the less experienced sailors, leave the Jib sheeted in !! As you gain more confidence on the downwind, gradually sheet out & pick up that much needed speed.

When things get dicey, sheet in & slow down, this is your downwind "handbrake"

Remember, you can't expect to beat the best of the heavy weather experts in a BLOW, but with practice and teamwork, you are able to beat most. If you're sailing a Regatta, it's consistency that counts, so aim for a reasonable result when it's windy and enjoy the sail, without necessarily trying to win (there may only be a handful of boats left) and tomorrow's conditions could be different!

Most importantly, relax & enjoy your sailing whatever the conditions!



COLOURS CHART

The 2003/ sailing season as been a quiet one, but our sailors have been recognised for their excellent sailing performances, our congratulations to the following on achieving their Northvaal Provincial Colours:

Ben Mienie **1st Nationals 2003**
Bianca Holman **1st Nationals 2003**

Noel Holman **1st Northvaals 2003**
2nd Nationals 2003

Nicholas Holman **1st Northvaals 2003**
2nd Nationals 2003

Well done to our sailors, colours applications are already in the process for 2 more sailors and with the Nationals in December, there could be a few more, incidentally there are also a number of sailors in contention for their SAS Colours as well! The more DARTs we have, the more applications we can put in, watch this space!



STOP PRESS

DART NATIONALS - Stilbaai 16-19 December 2004

The Notice of Regatta will be published shortly, please feel free to contact your SAIDA Committee for more info.

At first a non-believer, but December has the highest average wind speeds for the year! Bring along the alarm clock as well, our Bridge are early risers, we may well be racing at 6am !

Stilbaai will be catering for the event, so booking is essential, please email Audrey Eliot for your culinary needs.

e-mail: a Eliot@intekom.co.za



QUICK NEWSFLASH !!!!!

The SAIDA website is in the final stages of completion and will be "online" fairly soon, we will keep you posted on D-DAY!



TROPHIES

Yes, as always, there are still a number of SAIDA trophies outstanding, please check your cabinets/bar and drop Tanja Konighofer an email at TanjaK@mintek.co.za so that we can update/collect/repair our historical assets.



RULES CORNER

After a few incidents on the water, I have 2 rules that I must bring to attention;

2001-2004 ISAF Rules

DEFINITIONS

RACING

A boat is **racing** from her Preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and marks or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, postponement or abandonment.

Section D – Other Rules

When rule 20 or 21 applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.

Rule 20 STARTING ERRORS: PENALTY TURNS: MOVING ASTERN

A boat sailing towards the pre-start of the starting line or its extensions after her starting signal to comply with rule 29.1 or 30.1 shall **keep clear** of a boat not doing so until she is completely on the pre-start side.

A boat making a penalty turn shall **keep clear** of one that is not.

A boat moving astern by backing a sail shall **keep clear** of one that is not.

Right, what does this all mean? If you are on the pre-start side of the line (in most cases the windward side) and you are late for the start, you **MUST** keep clear of all boats that have **STARTED**, regardless of what tack you are on, **PORT** or **STARBOARD**, you have no rights whatsoever!

This also applies if you are doing your penalty or reversing you DART.



SAILING CALENDAR

23-24 OCTOBER 2004 ALBERT FALLS 3 STAR CHALLENGE

Alan Barr

alan@natalproperty.co.za

13-14 NOVEMBER 2004

GAUTENG LEAGUE LEG 4/4

Martin Osner

photo@iafrica.com

16-19 DECEMBER 2004 STILBAAI NATIONALS

Noel Holman 083 629 2714

nwholman@iafrica.com

For Club/Local events, please consult your local SAIDA Fleet Captains, who are;

BORDER ALAN LISTER	aalister@intekom.co.za
GAUTENG MARTIN OSNER	photo@iafrica.com
KZN / N/NATAL MARK DE WETT	MDEWET@oldmutualpfa.com
W/CAPE MARK WITHERS	markwithers@absamail.co.za

For any further queries, your 2002 SAIDA EXCO Committee are;

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TANJA KONIGHOFFER	TanjaK@mintek.co.za

That's all for now guys, *don't forget to send me your articles by the 25th of each month!*

Noel Holman

SAIDA Secretary

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